CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for managing a plurality of nodes in a hierarchically organized database stored in a server on a computer network comprising:

accessing a subset of said nodes in response to a client request;

using said subset wherein one or more state attributes associated with said nodes are modified in response to said client request; and

managing said nodes using said state attributes.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element should be updated.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element should be deleted.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element should be added.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said nodes are organized using a Document Object Model format.

6. A manager for one or more nodes in a hierarchically organized database stored in a server on a computer network comprising:

a subset of said nodes configured to be accessed in response to a user request;

one or more state attributes associated with said nodes configured to be modified in response to said client request when said subset is used; and

a manager configured to manage said nodes using said state attributes.

7. The manager of claim 6 wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element should be updated.

8. The manager of claim 6 wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element should be deleted.

9. The manager of claim 6 wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element should be added.

10. The manager of claim 6 wherein said nodes are organized using a DOM format.

11. A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein configured to manage a plurality of nodes in a hierarchically organized database stored in a server on a computer network

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to access a subset of said nodes in response to a client request;

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to use said subset wherein one or more state attributes associated with said nodes are modified in response to said client request; and

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to manage said nodes using said state attributes.

12. The computer program product of claim 11 wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element should be updated.

13. The computer program product of claim 11 wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element should be deleted.

14. The computer program product of claim 11 wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element should be added.

15. The computer program product of claim 11 wherein said data nodes are organized using a DOM format.

16. An apparatus comprising:

a subset of one or more nodes configured to be accessed in response to a client request wherein said subset is used wherein one or more state attributes associated with said nodes are modified in response to said client request; and

a manager configured to manage said nodes using said state attributes.

17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element should be updated.

18. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element should be deleted.

19. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said state attributes indicate that a corresponding data element should be added.

20. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said data nodes are organized in a DOM format.